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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,471	08/01/2001	N. Edward Berg	BERG99.01CIP	3251
27667	7590	08/24/2004		
HAYES, SOLOWAY P.C. 130 W. CUSHING STREET TUCSON, AZ 85701				
			EXAMINER CULBERT, ROBERTS P	
			ART UNIT 1763	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/890,471

Applicant(s)

BERG, N. EDWARD

Examiner

Roberts Culbert

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8,10,12-16,18,20,21,23,25-27,29,31,34-36,38 and 39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8,10,12-16,18,20,21,23,25-27,29,31,34-36,38 and 39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/14/04 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25-27, 29, 34-36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Regarding Claims 1 and 12, there is no support in the specification for preheating the substrate prior to printing a circuit pattern on the substrate. The description of the preheating step is found on page 5, lines 20-21 of the specification. The preheating step is performed prior to printing a pattern mask on a conductive layer.

Regarding Claim 34, there is no support in the specification for building up exposed metal patterns to increase thickness employing fusible ink. The description of the step of building up exposed metal patterns to increase thickness is found on page 5, lines 30-31 and page 7, lines 14-18. The exposed metal patterns are built up by electro-plating or electroless-plating techniques. There is no indication that the plating methods employ fusible ink.

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The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25-27, 29, 34-36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Since the claims are not adequately described in the specification as recited above, they are not described with reasonable clarity and precision.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25-27, 29, 34-36, and 38 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action, since the prior art does not teach the limitations as recited in the amended claims filed 6/14/04.

However, if the above-cited limitations were simply removed from the claims, claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25-27 and 29 would remain subject to the rejections of the previous office action, and claim 34 would be rejected over the newly discovered reference to Nacci et al.

The indicated allowability of claims 31 and 39 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Nacci et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 31 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,359,516 to Nacci et al.

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Nacci et al. teaches a method of forming a circuit board comprising supplying a non-conducting substrate having a top surface and a bottom surface each covered with a top and a bottom metallic layer, respectively; (Col. 11, Lines 3-10) preheating the substrate; (Col. 3, Lines 13-14) direct image printing a pattern mask on the top and the bottom metallic layers, leaving exposed metallic patterns using electrophotographic, ink jet, relief press or lithographic printing techniques; (Col. 1, Line 53- Col. 3, Line 10) building-up the exposed metallic patterns to increase the thickness thereof; (Col. 10, Lines 34-37) removing the pattern mask whereby to expose previously unexposed portions of the metallic layers; and etching the metallic layer coated substrate to remove a portion of the exposed metallic layers so that at least a portion of the built-up metallic patterns remains intact. (Col 10, Lines 34-65)

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 4,661,431 to Bujese et al teaches forming a patterned resist mask on a circuit board using electrostatic printing.

U.S. Patent 4,668,533 to Miller teaches forming a circuit pattern on a circuit board using ink-jet printing.

U.S. Patent 6,080,606 to Gleskova et al. teaches forming a patterned resist mask using electrophotographic printing.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roberts Culbert whose telephone number is (571) 272-1433. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Mills can be reached on (571) 272-1439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

R. Culbert



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